

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A variable length socket, comprising:
  - a) a first member including first and second sections;
  - b) a second member for cooperating with said first member and including third and fourth sections;
  - c) one of said first and second sections and one of said third and fourth sections including cooperating splines;
  - d) the other of said first and second sections configured to receive a workpiece to be manipulated by the socket;
  - e) the splines of said one of said first and second sections extending partly along the length of said first member.
2. The variable length socket of Claim 1, wherein:
  - a) the splines of said one of said first and second sections extend upto about a midpoint along the length of said first member.
3. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) the other of said first and second sections includes an internal recess extending upto about the midpoint along the length of said first member.

4. The variable length socket of Claim 3, wherein:
  - a) said recess is generally hexagonal in shape.
5. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) the splines are generally involute in shape.
6. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) the splines are generally straight in shape.
7. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) said one of said first and second sections includes six to twenty-seven splines.
8. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) one of the splines of said one of said first and second sections is about one-half to six inches in length.
9. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) the other of said third and fourth sections includes a recess for receiving a drive member of a wrench.

10. The variable length socket of Claim 2, wherein:
  - a) the splines of said one of said third and fourth sections extend beyond a midpoint along the length of said second member.
11. The variable length socket of Claim 1, in combination with a variable length wrench.
12. A variable length socket, comprising:
  - a) a first member including a spline section and an axially contiguous drive section;
  - b) a second member for telescopically cooperating with said first member and including a spline section and an axially contiguous drive section;
  - c) said first member including internal splines in said spline section thereof;
  - d) said second member including external splines in said spline section thereof for cooperating with the internal splines of said first member;
  - e) the internal splines extending upto about a midpoint along the length of said first member; and

- f) said drive section of said first member including an internal recess for receiving a workpiece to be manipulated by the socket.
- 13. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) said internal recess extends upto about the midpoint along the length of said first member.
- 14. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) the internal and external splines are generally involute in shape.
- 15. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) the internal and external splines are generally straight in shape.
- 16. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) one of said first and second members includes six to twenty-seven splines.

17. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) one of the internal splines and one of the external splines is about one-half to six inches in length.
18. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) said drive section of said second member includes a recess for receiving a drive member of a wrench.
19. The variable length socket of Claim 12, wherein:
  - a) the external splines extend beyond a midpoint along the length of said second member.
20. The variable length socket of Claim 12, in combination with a variable length wrench.